GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4285
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
FOREST FIRE IN MELGHAT GUGAMAL TIGER RESERVE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to devastating forest fire, a large area of forest and wildlife area engulfed in the Melghat-Gugamal tiger reserves in Amravati District, Maharashtra as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated March 26,2008;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has since taken any steps to prevent forest fires in the tiger reserves and to protect the species of the wildlife; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) A news item about the forest fire in Melghat-Gugamal Tiger Reserves in Maharashtra had appeared in Hindustan Times,dated March 26,2008.As per the news item,the affected area was reported to be 2000-2200 ha.However,as per the report received from the State Forest Department of Maharashtra, no incidence of devastating forest fires has been reported in Gugamal National Park of Melghat Tiger Reserve during the current fire season.However,some fire incidences of ground fire have been reported from the buffer area of Gugamal National Park of Melghat Tiger Reserve.The details of forest area affected due to forest fire during the last three years are as under-

Year	Total Forest Area (sq.km)	Area affected (sq.km)	Percentage
2006	2027.39	124.22	6.13
2007	2027.39	151.58	7.47
2008 (upto 10/4/08)	2027.39	60.97	3.00

(c) & (d) The following measures are adopted to prevent and control the forest fires − # As per management plan prescriptions, fire protection works are carried out in the Tiger Reserves and protected area. Network of firelines is created.

During the fire season, round the clock vigil is maintained by engaging fire watchers.

Special fire patrolling squads are deployed to extinguish the fire.

Wireless network has been installed in 4 Forest Circles and in 10 Protected Areas.

Awareness programmes are organized for people living in and around forest areas.

Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various centrally sponsored schemes.